

**PROPOSED CORRECTION OF THE ENTRY IN THE
"OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY"
RELATING TO THE NAME THERE RECORDED AS
"SEGESTRIA" WALCKENAER, 1805 (CLASS ARACHNIDA,
ORDER ARANEIDA) (PROPOSED CORRECTION OF AN
ERROR IN "OPINION" 104)**

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The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to correct an error in the entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* relating to the name *Segestria* there attributed to Walckenaer, 1805 (Class Arachnida, Order Araneida), which was detected in the process of preparing the *Official List* for publication in book-form.

2. The above generic name was placed on the *Official List* in *Opinion* 104 (1928, *Smithson, misc. Coll.* **73** (No 5) : 25, 27). Its type species was there stated to be "*florentina*" by subsequent designation.

3. In the process of routine checking, I noted that Neave (1940, *Nomencl. zool.* **4** : 164) recorded two nominal genera as having been established with the name *Segestria*. These were :—

(1) *Segestria* Latreille, 1804, *Nouv. Dict. Hist. nat.* **24** (Tabl. méth.) : 134.

(2) *Segestria* Walckenaer, 1805, *Tab. Aran.* : 148.

4. It was immediately apparent from the above discovery that, unless the name *Segestria* Latreille, 1804, had been published without an "indication" and was therefore a *nomen nudum*, the name *Segestria* Walckenaer, 1805, which had been placed on the *Official List* under *Opinion* 104, was an invalid junior homonym. At this point, I applied for assistance to Mr. R. J. Whittick, at that time in charge of the Arachnida collection in the British Museum (Natural History), to whom I am indebted for the information on which the proposals now submitted are based.

5. The nominal genus *Segestria* Latreille, 1804, was established with the following diagnosis : "Yeux ecartes sur une ligne transversale, remontant deux bouts. (*Segestrie*, *Segestria*). Les tubiformes de Walckenaer." This is therefore a nominal genus established without any nominal species clearly referred thereto. As such, its type species could, until 1948, have been determined only under the provisions of the Commission's *Opinion* 46. It will be recalled, however, that, on the recommendation of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology incorporated into the *Règles* revised and simplified provisions for determining the type species of nominal genera established in the foregoing manner, *Opinion* 46 (which had always been most unsatisfactory) being at the same time cancelled (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 159-160, 166, 346). Under the revised provisions referred to above, the first nominal species to be referred

to the genus *Segestria* by a subsequent author becomes the type species of that genus, if only one such species is so referred, while if two or more nominal species are thus referred to the nominal genus *Segestria*, those species alone are to be treated as having been originally included species and therefore as the only species eligible for selection as the type species of the genus by a subsequent author.

6. Walckenaer in 1805 was the first author after Latreille, 1804, to deal with the genus *Segestria*, for which he gave a brief description under the heading "Les Tubicoles (Tubulariae)" and cited two species as follows:—

- (1) *Seg. perfida* (*Seg. perfida*). Pl. 5, fig. 51 et 52. Walck., Faun. Paris, t. 2, p. 223, no. 73.—Rossi, Fauna Etrusca, pl. 19, fig. 3, *ar. florentina*.
- (2) *Seg. senoculée* (*Seg. senoculata*). Fab., Linn., Walck., DeGeer, t. 7, p. 258, no. 18, pl. 15, fig. 5, 6, 7, 8. Lister, *de Araneis*, p. 74, t. 24 fig. 24.

7. Under a decision taken by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology in 1948 a nominal species cited in a specific synonymy at the time when a new nominal genus is established (through the publication of a new generic name) is to be treated as having been an originally included species and is therefore eligible for selection as the type species of the genus concerned. Accordingly the nominal species referred to by Walckenaer as "*ar. florentina*" i.e. *Aranea florentina* Rossi, 1790 (*Fauna etrusc.* 2: 133) is eligible for selection as the type species of *Segestria* Latreille, 1804, through having been cited (in a specific synonymy) by Walckenaer (1805), the first author subsequent to Latreille (1804) to refer to the generic name *Segestria*. It should be noted also that in this particular case the two nominal species concerned (*Aranea florentina* Rossi, 1790, and *Aranea perfida* Walckenaer, 1802 (*Faune paris*, 2: 223) were not only subjectively identified with one another by Walckenaer in 1805 (see paragraph 6 above) but are, in fact, objectively identical with one another, for, when in 1802 Walckenaer first published the name *Aranea perfida*, he expressly cited the name *Aranea florentina* Rossi as a synonym. The name so published by Walckenaer was thus no more than a *nom. nov.* for that previously published by Rossi, of which it is therefore an objective junior (and therefore invalid) synonym.

8. The first author to select a type species for the genus *Segestria* was Latreille himself who in 1810 (*Consid. gén. Anim. Crust. Arach. Ins.*: 121, 424) selected "*Aranea florentina* Ross." That selection is perfectly valid, for the reasons explained in paragraph 7 above.

9. In the light of the foregoing review of the present case, we see that the name *Segestria* Walckenaer, 1805, placed on the *Official List* under *Opinion* 104, is an invalid homonym of the older name consisting of the same word (*Segestria*) i.e. *Segestria* Latreille, 1804, which applies to a nominal genus having as its type species the same species (*Aranea florentina* Rossi, 1790) as that cited by the International Commission as the type species of the later nominal genus *Segestria* Walckenaer, 1805. Accordingly, the error committed in *Opinion* 104 can readily be remedied by substituting on the *Official List* the valid name *Segestria* Latreille, 1804, for the invalid name *Segestria* Walckenaer, 1805.

This, therefore, is what is now proposed should be done. It is further proposed that the present opportunity should be taken to make such entries on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* and on the two *Official Indexes* of rejected and invalid names as are required in order to comply with the decisions taken by the International Congress of Zoology, when establishing that *Official List* and those *Official Indexes*.

10. The specific action which it is now recommended that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should take to remedy the error disclosed in *Opinion* 104 is that it should :—

- (1) delete from the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the entry relating to the name *Segestria* Walckenaer, 1805 erroneously made under *Opinion* 104 (which should be deemed to have been corrected accordingly) and in its place to insert the following corrected entry :—

Segestria Latreille, 1804 (type species, by subsequent selection by Latreille (1810) ; *Aranea florentina* Rossi, 1790) ;

- (2) place the generic name *Segestria* Walckenaer, 1805 (a junior homonym of *Segestria* Latreille, 1804) on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;
- (3) place the trivial name *florentina* Rossi, 1790 (as published in the binominal combination *Aranea florentina*) (trivial name of type species of *Segestria* Latreille, 1804) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (4) place the trivial name *perfida* Walckenaer, 1802 (as published in the binominal combination *Aranea perfida*) (trivial name of an objective junior synonym of *Aranea florentina* Rossi, 1790) on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.